

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

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UNCLAS ATHENS 2216

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, OREP (SENATOR KENNEDY)

SUBJECT: SENATOR KENNEDY MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS

1. SUMMARY. SENATOR KENNEDY FLEW TO ATHENS ON MARCH 19 FROM SKORPIOS, WHERE HE ATTENDED THE FUNERAL OF ONASSIS, AND AT HIS INITIATIVE MET WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH HIS MEETING WITH THE SENATOR, AND IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS MR. KENNEDY EXPRESSED HIS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE GREEK POSITION ON CYPRUS. THE SENATOR'S MEETING WITH THE PM WAS COVERED BY MOST OF THE GREEK PRESS WITH REPORTS AND/OR PHOTOS BUT KATHIMERINI GAVE IT THE MOST DETAILED COVERAGE WITH EXTENSIVE QUOTES. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING THEIR PRIVATE MEETING, WHICH LASTED OVER AN HOUR, PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WALKED SENATOR KENNEDY THROUGH THE GARDEN OUTSIDE HIS OFFICE. IN A BRIEF STATEMENT TO JOURNALISTS, THE PM SAID: "I AM SATISFIED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING WHICH SENATOR KENNEDY HAS SHOWN FOR THE PROBLEMS WHICH PREOCCUPY GREECE AND PRINCIPALLY THE PROBLEM OF CYPRUS. IF EVERYBODY SHOWED THE SAME UNDERSTANDING, THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WOULD BE QUICK AND EASY." THE PRIME MINISTER DECLINED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWSMEN PRESENT.

3. SENATOR KENNEDY THEN MADE A STATEMENT AND ANSWERED SOME UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTIONS. HIS PRINCIPAL REMARKS WERE AS FOLLOWS (BASED ON OUR

TRANSLATION OF THE ACCOUNT OF HIS REMARKS IN KATHIMERINI):  
THE SENATOR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE PM FOR SEEING HIM  
AND STATED THAT MR. CARAMANLIS WAS HELD IN VERY GREAT ESTEEM  
IN THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE OVERWEHLMING  
MAJORITY OF THE CONGRESS HAD VOTED FOR THE CUTOFF OF MILITARY  
AID TO TURKEY "...THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. WE WANT THE RESTORATION OF  
THE INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS."

4. THE SENATOR SAID HE WOULD "TRANSMIT TO THE SENATE AND THE  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES THE FEELING OF THE URGENT NEED  
WHICH PREVAILS AMONG ALL GREEKS FOR A JUST SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS  
PROBLEM. WE SHALL EXERCISE EVERY POSSIBLE PRESSURE ON MR.  
KISSINGER AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SO THAT TURKEY WILL SOME HOW  
COMPLY IN A MORE POSITIVE WAY TO THIS NEED." IN REPLY TO QUESTION,  
THE SENATOR SAID THAT THE ONLY WAY TO BRING PRESSURE WAS THROUGH  
MEASURES IN THE CONGRESS AND THE SENATE. ALL COUNTRIES OF WESTERN  
EUROPE AND THE ENTIRE AMERICAN NATION "BELIEVE IN THE INDEPENDENCE  
AND FREEDOM OF PEOPLES. IN CYPRUS THERE WAS AN UNPROVOKED AND UNJUST  
INVASION AND TURKEY MUST UNDERSTAND THIS. WE MUST REESTABLISH THE  
ORDER WHICH EXISTED BEFORE THE INVASION."

5. KENNEDY CONCLUDED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN IN THE SENATE, AS HAD  
OTHERS, REGARDING THE FEELINGS OF ANXIETY AMONG THE GREEKS  
WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ON THE  
CYPRUS QUESTION. "IN ANY CASE IT IS OUR DESIRE THAT THE GREEK  
PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT THE POLICY FOLLOWED BY THE AMERICAN  
GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO THE FEELINGS OF  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

6. AT THE AIRPORT JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM GREECE,  
MR. KENNEDY MET BRIEFLY WITH CYPRIOT LEADER CLERIDES WHO HAD  
ARRIVED FROM NEW YORK.  
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